

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th December 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	Agrahāyan 1286 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sānsodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
Fortnightly.				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	31
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	...	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	25th November 1879.
7	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	25th ditto.
8	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	25th ditto.
9	"Bardwān Sanjivānī"	Bardwān	296	
10	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	23rd ditto.
11	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	28th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca	300	26th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
14	"Howrah Hitakārī"	Bethar, Howrah	400	24th November & 1st December 1879.
15	"Medinī"	Midnapore	250	
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	28th November 1879.
17	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	1st December 1879.
18	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	30th November 1879.
19	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	
20	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah	500	24th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	21st and 28th November 1879.
22	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	
23	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	24th November 1879.
24	"Sanjivānī"	Mymensingh	260	
25	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	29th ditto.
26	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	
Tri-weekly.				
27	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta	.....
Daily.				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	700	26th November to 4th December 1879.
29	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	27th ditto to 5th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	20th, 25th & 29th Nov. & 1st & 2nd December 1879.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	1st to 3rd December 1879.
32	"Prabhātī"	Ditto	.....	21st, 26th & 29th Nov. to 4th Dec. 1879.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
33	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
34	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	15th, 22nd, and 29th November 1879.
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
Daily.				
35	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader	Ditto	.....	1st to 6th December 1879.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
36	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	19th & 26th November 1879.
37	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	20th & 27th ditto.
38	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	19th & 26th ditto.
39	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	17th & 24th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	21st & 28th ditto.

POLITICAL.

URDU GUIDE,
November 15th, 1879.

THE *Urdu Guide*, in discussing the fate of Yakub Khan, refers to the different opinions which are being expressed on this subject. For his own part, the Editor

would advise Government not to pass on Yakub the extreme penalty of the law, but detain him in honorable captivity as a State prisoner either in the Fort of Chunar or at Calcutta, where he will be at a safe distance from intrigues of designing men.

PRABHATI,
November 29th, 1879.

2. We give below the substance of a long article in the *Prabhātī*, of the 29th November, headed the "Afghan policy of Government." Superficial observers

The Afghan policy of Government. of the policy and actions of Government may be led to believe, on the assurance of Lord Lytton, that the Afghan war was really forced upon him by the hostile attitude of Shere Ali. In our opinion, however, the late Amir did not do anything particularly wrong. Lord Lytton had sought to make him a party to the negotiations which were ultimately forced upon his son, and which subsequently resulted in the massacre of the British Embassy and the disgrace of Yakub Khan. Shere Ali refused to listen to the proposals of the British Government, and hence the war. Lord Lytton came out to India for the purpose of persuading the ruler of Afghanistan to receive British Residents in his capital. The latter unfortunately did not feel himself prepared to agree to this condition. He knew well the feelings of the Afghans on this matter; and who knows that had he acceded to the proposals of Lord Lytton, the massacre which took place under his son would not have occurred much earlier, and that the fate which has now overtaken Yakub, would not have been his? Even if such an event had not brought Shere Ali into disgrace with the British Government, he would certainly have lost all popularity with his own subjects, who would as surely have constantly plotted for his dethronement. In short, Shere Ali well knew the dilemma he would be placed in by agreeing to the proposals of the British Government; and he was therefore unable to do so. One feature of the policy of the present Government is indeed curious. Right or wrong, reasonable or the reverse, the framers of this policy demand strict compliance from those to whom its operation may be extended, otherwise serious consequences ensue. It is thus evident that the British Government purposely entered upon this war against Afghanistan. We are not singular in holding this opinion. Some also of the leading statesmen in England have judged Government guilty in this matter. The writer then proceeds to ask whether the extension of the North-Western frontiers of India has brought the advantages which were so confidently expected from it. Have the frontier tribes been pacified, or are they now more excited than they ever were? And have Russian intrigues increased or ceased? Is Afghanistan now quiet or excited? Is the political horizon clear or overcast with clouds? And lastly, are the people of India enjoying peace or are they agitated by restlessness?

DACCA PRAKASH,
November 23rd, 1879.

3. Writing on the subject of the rules relating to newspaper correspondents in Afghanistan, which was noticed in paragraph 5 of our Report of the 22nd November, the *Dacca Prakāsh* remarks that the policy of repression, which is being daily introduced into this country, does not augur well either for the people or the Government. The illiberal character of the statesmanship, which is now in the ascendant, has already seriously injured the good name of the British administration. The people of course are loyal and do not desire the discontinuance of the present Government, but the appearance of any symptom of its decadence cannot but produce apprehension in their minds. There have been thousands of instances which have furnished ground for making such

a statement. Most of the public acts of the present administration have been characterized by insincerity and abuse of power. Government has often been led to commit arbitrary acts from fear. A fear of public opinion and a fear of Russia have been the motives of many of its recent measures. The Press Act and the Afghan war are due to these causes. The Editor then proceeds to condemn the rules regarding newspaper correspondents which have been recently promulgated by Government.

4. In an article headed the "Results of the Afghan War," the *Sahachar*, of the 24th November, remarks

SAHACHAR,
November 24th, 1879.

The results of the Afghan war.

that the extension of the North-Western frontiers of India has but increased the fear and chances of a Russian invasion; and yet the object of this measure, before the war had been actually declared, was stated to be to destroy all possibility of that contingency ever coming to pass. Our frontier has now been weakened; and the advance into Afghanistan having released Russia from her treaty engagements, may lead us to expect hostilities on her part at any moment.

5. In a long article headed "Cabul" the *Bhārut Mihir*, of the 25th November, discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative plans of annexation

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 25th, 1879.

Cabul affairs.

of, and complete retirement, from Afghanistan, which have been recently dwelt upon in the columns of newspapers. On considerations of the poverty of India, the unproductiveness of Afghanistan, the rude, fierce, and liberty-loving character of its people, and the difficulties that must be encountered if a conflict with Russia became inevitable in that inhospitable country, swarming with a hostile population, the writer cannot advise Government to resort to annexation.

6. In an article on the proposed income tax the *Sārsudhānidhi* but reproduces the observations made by the

SARSUDHANIDHI,
November 24th, 1879.

The income tax.

Sahachar, and noticed in paragraph 4 of our last Report. The only original remark the Editor makes is that it is hard that traders, should the Bill be passed into law, would be required to pay both the license tax and an income tax. Having made this statement, he bases upon it others equally inaccurate, and asks Government to levy, as far as the traders are concerned, either the license or the income tax, but not both.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

7. The *Prabhāti*, of the 21st November, thus writes in an article headed "A License-Income Tax." In what

PRABHATI,
November 21st, 1879.

An income tax.

an inauspicious hour did Lord Lytton first set his foot in India! Troubles arose on all sides soon after his arrival. At the present moment there is war and bloodshed almost along the whole length of the borders of India. The British arms are indeed invincible, but every one is longing for peace, although there is no knowing when that will come. Government is engaged in costly wars, but no thought seems to be bestowed on the question of expense. Who is to pay it? Schemes have indeed been circulated for making reductions of public expenditure, but they do not seem to be adequate for the purpose. It is therefore almost certain that Government will have to face the necessity of wringing money from thousands in order that it may be able to continue the work of bloodshed now going on in Afghanistan. Our sagacious rulers, however, will not speak out their minds all at once, especially in the matter of taxation, regarding which the public have been repeatedly assured that no fresh burdens will be imposed upon them. Government is therefore about to enact a law for the purpose of levying an additional tax under the name of the license tax. In the course of his speech in the Legislative Council it seemed at one moment as though Sir John Strachey would admit that the tax was pressing

heavily on the poor; but he recovered himself instantly, and denied that this was the case. The Editor in conclusion asks Government to make some provision in the Bill now before the Council for preventing the occurrence of oppressions in the collection of the tax.

PRABHATI,
November 21st, 1879.

8. The same paper of the 1st December, in continuing his observations on the above subject, remarks that taxation in India has reached the lowest

margin possible. In spite of this, Government engaged in a costly war against Afghanistan, sacrificed a revenue of 20 lakhs of rupees a year for conciliating the merchants of Manchester; and have determined upon charging the cost of the first Afghan war upon the revenues of this country. Where then is room for hope, since Government persists in a line of action which could only be adopted by one who did not know the true state of things? A reduction of unnecessary expenditure is now the only resource left to Government for improving its finances. Schemes of retrenchment should be of a sweeping and comprehensive character, and must not be conceived in a spirit of leniency to any particular interests. The Editor then refers to the proposed income tax, and remarks that much of the oppressions and hardship caused to the poor by the operation of the license tax might have been spared if only the former tax had been imposed earlier. Of course, an income tax is not unobjectionable, but it is less objectionable than the license tax. And it is this consideration which should dispose those who are now to be brought under its operation to accept it without much protest. Sir John Strachey must be congratulated on his skill in so bringing it about that even an income tax has come to be regarded with some degree of favour. He is a clever artist who could thus place this unwelcome measure in contrast with one still more odious.

SAMALOCHAK,
November 21st, 1879.

9. The *Samálochak*, of the 21st November, remarks that, in spite of his manifold exertions, Sir John Strachey finds the deficit in the Indian exchequer as large

as ever. He would seem to be much like a man who is floating on the ocean, and in his despair catches at a straw to save himself from sinking. His condition really excites our pity, and we wish from the bottom of our hearts that some one came and rescued him from his present position. A perusal of Sir John's speech, when introducing the Income Tax Bill in the Legislative Council, has disabused our minds of one error regarding him. We had all along looked upon him as a hard-hearted man, but now we see that his heart is full of tenderness and mercy. He did not allow himself to be guided by the opinions of Sir Richard Temple and Sir Robert Egerton in the matter of fixing the limit of lowest taxable income under the License Tax Act. The limit was, as everybody knows, fixed at Rs. 100; but the high officers above referred to had been in favor of still lowering it. The lowest taxable income has been recently put down at Rs. 250. This will afford an amount of relief which, according to some of the local Governments, is more than what is really needed. Still Sir John has thought it better to be liberal in these matters. The idea of Sir John thus growing liberal really provokes our laughter, and reminds us of the story of the miser which we give below:—

There was in a village a certain wealthy miser who was persuaded to cause the excavation of a tank in a place where it was sorely needed. He yielded to the prayer of the inhabitants, but ruled that whoever should come to draw water from this tank would have to pay a certain sum, besides being liable to be pinched at any part of his body. The inhabitants greatly blamed him for this; but not having any other supply of water, were obliged to subject themselves to the above degradation. Now, after some time, the miser died leaving hordes of money to his sons. They were grieved to find

that their father's name was still exceedingly unpopular ; and with a view to remove the stain which was cast upon his reputation, now directed that the villagers might draw water from the tank without being liable to any payment or other condition. The effect of this was that, while they themselves became greatly popular, the conduct of their late father by contrast suffered much in the estimation of the inhabitants. The miser's sons, therefore, now tried another expedient, and ruled that whoever had any mind to use the tank should have to pay a sum double of what was required formerly, besides being liable to be pinched twice. This made the villagers say that the father was better than the sons. The efforts of Sir Richard Temple and Sir Robert Egerton to impart a character for liberality to Sir John Strachey are on a par with those made by the miser's sons to remove the reproaches which had been cast on their father's reputation.

10. In an article headed the "Income Tax again" the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 22nd November, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 4 of our last Report.

HINDU HITASHINI,
November 22nd, 1879.

An income tax.

11. Although perfectly aware that public opinion does not carry any weight with Sir John Strachey, so obstinately wedded is he to his own views, the *Sahachar* would nevertheless make a few remarks for the information of Government. The whole country has pronounced that the taxing of persons with incomes of Rs. 100 a year was extremely unjust, and that those, the whole amount of whose earnings in a month does not exceed Rs. 8, are really poor. Sir John will not, however, admit this ; and referred to the opinion of Sir Ashley Eden on the point. We do not see how the Finance Minister, who spends the greater part of the year at Simla, and even our Lieutenant-Governor, could know more about us than we ourselves do. One example will serve our purpose. Our rulers will not probably deny that almost everybody in this country is married early, and possesses a family consisting of, besides husband and wife, at least three children. On the lowest computation, the parents consume three-fourths of a seer of rice, and the children about half this quantity every day. Fifty seers is the quantity required for such a family for every month, and the price of this, when rice sells at a rate which on the average may be taken at Rs. 4 for a maund, is Rs. 5. The coarse rice consumed by the poor requires more salt to give it a relish than what is usually necessary, and thus the price of salt required for a month's consumption may be set down at one rupee. Fish constitutes another item which costs about the same sum. Properly stated, the whole thing would stand somewhat thus :—

SAHACHAR,
November 24th, 1879.

							Rs.
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Salt	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

There remains now only one rupee which must cover all charges on account of vegetables, spices, cloth, and many other articles. So well off? these men are that they cannot feed their children with anything better than gruel. Sir John having once pronounced them to be well off, woe unto him who dares to contradict him. But why have they been now exempted? What were the grounds of the recommendation made in their favor by Sir Stuart Bayley? Sir John will yield and yet not yield. By admitting that it is not politically wise to levy a tax which, while it affects many, yet produces but a small revenue, he has indirectly admitted that the license tax has been such a tax, and that its inadequateness as a means of producing revenue is due to the fact that the large majority of the people in this country are poor.

We have now seen what the idea of Sir John Strachey is regarding a successful and productive tax. A tax to be successful must, according to him, fall upon a few, and yet be productive of revenue. For this purpose, he has, for the relief of a million of persons, foregone a revenue of 24 lakhs of rupees a year, only to transfer the burden on the shoulders of 35,000 men whether in the service of Government or any private employer. Now, we beg respectfully to ask how many were the mill-owners of Manchester who had to pay the 20 lakhs (the true sum would be found to be considerably higher) which were sacrificed by the remission of the cotton duties? Whose interest is it more desirable to foster, those of the 35,000 hard-working men above referred to, or of a parcel of dishonest weavers of Manchester? Has the reduction of the salt duties been a really wise step? Here is a Finance Minister who affects a knowledge of the true condition of the people, and yet does not know that those who have for some time past purchased rice at Rs. 5 a maund, when formerly Rs. 2 was sufficient, and paid for other articles too at increased rates, would not grumble if they had to pay an extra pice for every seer of salt. The truth is that there are some people who always desire to make their authority felt, and according to whom the work of an administrator should be such as to be felt by the people both in their purse and in other ways. Sir John Strachey belongs to this school of thinkers. We do not see how else, in utter disregard of the views of the people of India, both European and native, of all the public officers, and of men like Lord Northbrook, he could continue to cherish his partiality for an income tax. As often as it makes the attempt, the suspected cat is sure to be caught, yet it cannot help returning to the milk-kettle.

There have been oppressions, which still continue, in the collection of the license tax, and the statements made by Sir John Strachey in this connection will simply not be believed by anybody.

The Finance Minister must be doubtless by this time convinced that the public does not recognize the necessity of imposing any fresh tax. This year the outturn of the crops has been good. The revenue derived from opium and salt has shown an increase; the license tax is in operation; while the improvement in exchange will cause a saving of about 25 lakhs of rupees. Add to this the two crores borrowed from the English treasury which have not yet been expended. General Roberts again is trying to raise some revenue in Afghanistan as a set-off against the military charges incurred in that country; and the amount which might be raised in Cabul and Kohistan could not, even according to Government, be less than twelve and a half millions of rupees a year. Reductions of expenditure are being made on all sides. The prosecution of reproductive public works has been suspended. Under these circumstances, we do not see the necessity of imposing an income tax which, not being suited to the condition of this country, will but produce profound dissatisfaction. That Sir John Strachey is not fit for his present office seems to be the opinion generally entertained of him. A wise financier would have, if it had been really necessary, secured an increase of revenue by quietly raising the salt duties, when Sir John Strachey is levying an income tax which has the effect of dissatisfying the whole country and the entire body of officers in its service. The people of India are not opposed to indirect taxation. We believe that there is no necessity of putting on any new tax. After adverting to the disappearance of the famine insurance fund, and the conflicting statements made in this connection by Sir John Strachey, which are strongly condemned, the writer proceeds to make the following observations:—The truth is, the present administration seems to think that it can deal as skilfully with the people of this country as Lord Salisbury and Prince Gortschakoff are said to deal with

each other, quite ignoring the possibility that their tactics would have been long since detected and exposed if only we had possessed a representative system of Government. It behoves rulers possessed of absolute authority to be honest in their dealings with the people. We regret to observe Sir John has said so many contradictory things in the space of one year that the people of India, both European and native, have lost all faith in his honesty. He has not done well in speaking in the name of the Government of India, for it is composed of members some of whom, at any rate such for instance as Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, Sir Andrew Clark, Mr. Rivers Thompson, or Mr. Stokes, would never advocate an increased taxation of this country for conciliating the merchants of Manchester. Nor do the people particularly blame the unfortunate and weak-minded Lord Lytton. Sir John Strachey is personally responsible for this proposed income tax. The writer thus concludes:—"Be honest in practice: who will be imposed on by your words? Of course, you may eulogize Sir Ashley Eden, and he will belaud you to the skies; but the people are not asses."

12. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 25th November, dwells upon the selfishness of the merchants of Manchester, their interested philanthropy on behalf of the people of India, and the recent speech of Lord Salisbury, in which he asked them to persist in their efforts to obtain a complete repeal of the cotton duties. The last measure, if carried out, will certainly make cheap cloth available to the people; but it is also certain that to make up for the loss of revenue which must be caused by the adoption of such a step, a direct tax will be necessary, which is not at all suited to this country. An enhancement of the salt duties would be greatly preferable.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 25th, 1879.

13. Adverting to the new Civil Service scheme for natives, the same paper regards it as a thing which has been invented for the purpose of imposing on the people of this country. They are not, however, foolish enough to accept it as the genuine article. The conduct of Government in this matter has been throughout marked by insincerity and untruthfulness.

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. The *Ananda Bazar Patrikā*, of the 25th November, is gratified to find that an income tax is shortly to be imposed on the people. This will relieve many of the poor. Of course the English journals are greatly offended, but that matters little. The Editor strongly condemns the *Indian Mirror* for having joined the Anglo-Indian papers in protesting against the new tax. While approving of the other portions of the speech of Sir John Strachey, the *Ananda Bazar* dissents from him on two points. It is not true that persons with an income of Rs. 100 a year are well off, or that the collection of the license tax was not attended by any dangers or difficulties. To refute the latter statement, the Editor refers to the occurrence of the Surat riots and the rebellions of Chendriah and others.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
November 25th, 1879.

15. The same paper remarks, in reference to the Factories Bill, that it has originated in the desire of Government to conciliate the powerful merchants of Manchester, who by means of this measure will have an opportunity of ruining the cloth-mills of India. The other observations made in this article are similar to those in paragraph 1 of our last Report.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

16. The *Sādhārāṇī*, of the 30th November, refutes the statement made by Sir John Strachey that a person with an income of Rs. 8 a month is not poor; and remarks that it is not that Government indulges in such assertions from ignorance of the true state of matters, but simply because it has an object to gain by this means. There is a remedy for honest ignorance,

SADHARANI,
November 30th, 1879.

there is none for this. Government does not pay the least regard to the opinion of the people, whom it considers ignorant, weak, and illiterate. It is, however, hoped this state of things will not last long, and that some day the eyes of the rulers will be opened. The writer then gives a vivid description of the poverty of a person whose monthly income is not higher than Rs. 8; and continuing his observations to another article, dwells on the peculiarities of the joint Hindu family where the earnings of one person frequently go to support a number of relations and dependents. The editorial concludes with the remark that even one who in this country earns a hundred rupees a month is not placed above a condition of poverty.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 1st, 1879.

17. In a long article the *Navavibhakar*, of the 1st December, points out the miserable condition of the Hindu widows in the native society, who are very often obliged to be unwelcome dependents on the bounty of

Legislation on behalf of Hindu widows.

their deceased husband's brothers or their own brothers, and subjected to an infinite amount of tyranny. Many of them, although possessing a life-interest in much valuable immovable property bequeathed to them by their husbands, and in spite of the distinct provision of the Hindu law that a widow is entitled to dispose of such property when she cannot support herself in any other way, cannot yet find purchasers for it, because of the known difficulty with which a purchaser has to contend in such cases from the obstructiveness of those who have a right of succession thereto. The consequence of this is that a widow has often to suffer great distress, although possessed of property. This state of things is not satisfactory; and it behoves the Government of Lord Lytton to initiate legislation for the purpose of facilitating the transfer by sale or otherwise of immovable property by Hindu widows when such transfer may seem to be necessary to furnish them with the means of livelihood. The writer then lays down a procedure which should be adopted in the case of a Hindu widow desiring to sell her property, and which may be briefly described as follows:—She should first apply on an unstamped paper to any District Judge for permission to do so; stating in her application particulars about her condition, and the name and residence of the person or persons having a right of succession to the property. After receiving this, the Judge will issue a notice upon the latter calling upon them to make any objections, if they have any, to the applicant's prayer being granted. A copy of this notice is to be stuck up in three conspicuous places. Objections heard, he is to grant or refuse the prayer, according as the circumstances might appear to him.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 1st, 1879.

18. The same paper, in writing about the proposed income tax, protests against the statement made by Sir John Strachey that a person earning Rs. 100 a

The income tax.

year is not poor; and his repudiation of all responsibility in connection with a Famine Fund. On the subject of direct and indirect taxation, and referring to the remission of the cotton duties and the reduction of those levied on salt, his observations are similar to those noticed in paragraph 11. The writer then proceeds to comment on the Trades and Professions Bill; and in doing this, takes exception to the provisions of sections 5 and 6 which, when worked, cannot but prove oppressive. It is really unfair to require, as in section 7, the ignorant and the naturally timid people of this country, who generally shun the precincts of the law courts, to come to the Collector, and there find out for themselves the class in which they have been placed. This will put them to expense, and open the door to extortion on the part of the underlings of the court. Section 6 is even more absurd in what it lays down. It requires a trader to volunteer information to the Collector about his income if his name has been, through any oversight on the part of the assessor, omitted from the list of assesseees. How difficult and oppressive this will prove in the case of those who have

just opened business, and have not had yet time to make a probable forecast of their income, may be easily imagined. The writer further refers to the distinction made between the rates severally payable by the traders and those who are in service. The former will have to pay at a higher rate. This is not fair, and the distinction should be removed. The case of those traders in Calcutta who have to take out licenses from the municipality for plying their business should also be taken into consideration. The Editor lays much stress on the exemption of the zemindars from the purview of the proposed measure, and regards this as invidious.

19. The *Behar Bandhu*, of the 19th November, contains an article on the Bengal Rent Bill, which is continued in its issue of the 26th idem. It is remarked that although designed for the benefit of the

The Bengal Rent Bill and means for facilitating the realization of rents.

ryots, the measure will nevertheless lead to very injurious consequences. It might have worked well if the landlords and tenants in India had been like the corresponding classes in England. As it is, if passed into law, it will end by reducing the ignorant peasantry to the condition of serfs; and they will simply reach the point of starvation, if an increase does not simultaneously take place in the number of mills and factories to furnish them with employment. Before framing any such measure as is now contemplated, it would be well if a law were enacted for the improvement of the condition of both landlords and tenants by making visits to their estates on the part of the former compulsory, and requiring them to be on terms of personal acquaintance with the ryots, and to have a knowledge of the boundaries of holdings. It should further prohibit the levying of illegal cesses and the fixing of an equitable rent rate. A part of the profits derived from an estate should be set apart for its improvement, and education in agriculture imparted, and good manners taught to the ryots, while men of education should be appointed as managers. The records of the zemindar's *sherista* should all be on printed forms, and should be periodically bound in volumes. Provisions, such as these, are really required for the purpose of improving the relations subsisting between landlords and tenants; and it would be well to further lay down that any infringement thereof on the part of the landlords would cause the estate to be transferred to the management of the Collector.

In the second article on the subject, the editor regrets to find that nowhere in the Bengal Rent Bill is there any mention made of the conditions of the peculiar tenures which exist in Behar, and which are known as the Bhowli. The parties to these conditions divide the crops between themselves, and nothing is paid in cash as rent. Now, in dealing with such tenures, especially in regard to the right of transfer which must be conferred upon the ryots should this Bill become law, it is clear that other rules are necessary than those which have been laid down for Bengal. Whatever these might be, in framing them the interests of the zemindar should be duly considered.

20. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th November, dwells in a long article on the frauds and forgeries which have of late years taken place chiefly among the

Use of court fees to be discontinued.

ministerial officers of the law courts in connection with court fee stamps. The introduction of this kind of stamps has led to an increase of crime. Considering that great facilities exist for separating the court fees from the papers to which they are affixed, it is no wonder that this should be the case. The writer advises Government to revert to the old system of using stamped papers, which did not furnish scope for so much robbery.

BEHAR BANDHU,
19th and 26th Nov.
1879.

SANJIVANI,
November 24th, 1879.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th December 1879.

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